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Source, Operational Data, and Comments

In my RF-41 I described a Greek Orthodox in para 5. Info of this report, beginning with para 5 emanated principally from that source.

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INDEX

SECRET

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55-1-111

SECRET

Subject: Mufti's Resurgence

Report No: RPJ-355

Date of Information: early Aug.

Place Acquired: Jerusalem

Date Acquired: 11 August 1948

Evaluation: C-3

Date of Report: 12 August 1948

Source: [] *Em* *Em - Military action taken in Palestine*

1. The source reports that the Mufti is launching a renewed campaign in the Arab-occupied areas of Palestine. The pattern of the campaign appears to be:-

- a) Recruit of new gangs to be used breaking cease-fire
- b) To undermine King Abdullah's prestige and to force the withdrawal of the Arab Legion from Palestine.

2. Mufti is said to be receiving considerable help from Egyptians in Hebron and southern districts of Palestine. With reference to b) above, Abdullah's Military Governor of Hebron, SALEM BEY MAJALI, is reportedly a particular target for this campaign. The civilian population is being systematically incited to demand withdrawal of the Arab Legion.

3. MUNIR ABU FADHEL is apparently among Mufti's foremost adherents in the central sector of the country. (During the Mandate, he was connected with the British Palestine, and was well known for his pro-Mufti sentiments. Following British withdrawal, he somewhat vacillated between Mufti's factions, then definitely on a decline, and King Abdullah's followers. He even succeeded in being appointed as Chief of Police for the City of Jerusalem during the early stages of Abdullah's Palestine campaign. He was, however, replaced after a very short tour of duty, and more or less disappeared from the scene. There had been rumours of his renewed connection with the Mufti, but no definite information as to his whereabouts was available until now.

4. Following personalities are reportedly active on Mufti's side:

EL JABI (apparently a nickname)
YUSUF ABU HASSAN of Bahariya village
KAMEL ABU HALL of Tubas
SULEIMAN ABU HALL of Ara
IBRAHIM KARAWI of Sakhiriv

5. [] claims that definite efforts are being made by Arab countries, who are naturally opposed to Transjordan, to rehabilitate the Mufti and his movement under the slogan of "Palestine affairs for the Palestine Arabs". Plans allegedly exist for mobilization of an Army composed of Palestinian Arabs, to be reinforced by irregulars and experts from neighboring states. The main task of this partisan army would be to conduct guerrilla warfare principally calculated to disrupt Jewish lines of communications, to maintain a state of insecurity, possibly in an effort to prevent fruitful consolidation of Jewish Classification gains.

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SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

6. [] points to far-reaching strategic plans which are becoming discernible:

a) Arab Governments would again be in a position to deny responsibility for acts of aggressions and would possibly then be able to claim compliance with the Security Council decisions.

b) Arab forces would gain time for reorganization, training and for re-equipping themselves in the light of the experience suffered in Palestine.

c) Maintenance of a partisan army would tend to weaken Jewish resistance due to necessity of maintaining large forces over a protracted period. It is considered, therefore, that the moment will arrive when Arab Forces will be able to deliver a death blow to the Jews.

7. [] states that HAZAM PASMA is the moving spirit of this plan. He expects to get agreement on details of this plan from all of the Arab countries. Although ABDULLAH is considered as a possible stumbling block, it will be difficult for him to object vigorously, inasmuch as he has committed himself on the use of irregulars as auxiliary forces in his own operation.

8. A belief allegedly inspired by the British, that the Jews will be weakened to a considerable extent by continued unrest and harassing operations, and that that fact, together with the threat of a possible second invasion, will induce the Jews to accept terms more in line with Arab demands.

SECRET

RPJ-355